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NO. 23 K-STATE VS TEXAS TECH

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GAMEDAY GUIDE

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PARKER ROBB | THE COLLEGIAN

Senior tight end **Zach Trujillo** attempts to dodge a tackle from Auburn defender **Johnathan Ford**, Sept. 18, 2014 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.



# A kick for the ages: Gramatica reflects on K-State tenure, historic career

By ADAM SUDERMAN  
THE COLLEGIAN

Sixty-five yards was all that separated Martin Gramatica from NCAA record books.

Standing at 5 feet 8 inches, 170 pounds, he was by no means the biggest kicker. However, he showed a leg for the ages on Sept. 12, 1998.

"Snap down, Gramatica's kick is up. The kick is long enough ... and the kick is good! He knocked it in there! Sixty-five-yard field goal for Martin Gramatica! It's a new Kansas State record and the Cats' will go to the locker room with a 59-7 lead!"

The words of voice of K-State Athletics Greg Sharpe filled the airwaves of Kansas radio on that September afternoon and will forever be tied to a historic day of K-State football.

"Automatica" Gramatica's feat still stands as the longest field goal in NCAA history without the use of a tee.

"It happened so fast and it was right before the half," Gramatica said. "I actually had one of my shoes untied, because I wore such tight shoes and I thought we were going into halftime. That's when we called a timeout."

Now serving alongside him as associate head coach and special teams coach, Sean Snyder approached his now 74-year-old father and convinced him to give Gramatica the try for the record.

"I had no idea how far it was (exactly), but I knew it was far because I could tell from where I was standing," Gramatica said. "I could see how far the goalposts were from me. It was probably better off that I didn't know, because if you do, you're going to try to over-kick it and over-hit it. It's usually what happens with a lot of longer field goals."

Mark Janssen, who served as sports editor of the Manhattan Mercury from 1981-2009, was present on the record-setting day and said he was amazed in seeing Snyder allow Gramatica to kick the field goal at that juncture of the game.

"To demonstrate how appreciative he was, he allowed him to kick a 65-yarder," Janssen said. "That game is 50-something to nothing going into halftime and he called a timeout just to give Martin a chance. The opportunities to try a record don't come around that often."

Gramatica's story prior to coming to K-State also resonates with the longtime sportswriter.

"He came here basically as a soccer player," Janssen said. "He

had only played one year of high school football and caught the attention of (current linebackers coach of the San Francisco 49ers) Jim Leavitt. He really didn't know too much about football and he was a very small guy. He knew how to kick a ball, but he was so consistent that you stopped thinking about it."

Notre Dame came calling. However, the prestigious football program of the Fighting Irish was not something Gramatica was familiar with, which ended up giving K-State the edge in an ever-so important recruiting battle.

"Notre Dame had recruited him and he was so into soccer at that time that he knew nothing about Notre Dame football," Janssen said. "Nothing about their tradition or their name, so he just sort of blew them off and coach Leavitt was down there. They flew him in during the middle of the summer, brought a tape and all of a sudden he's a Wildcat and on campus 30 days later."

Gramatica's K-State career began in 1994 and he ended up playing for two years before suffering a season-ending injury prior to his junior season. Although it was tough to sit out in the middle of his career, the Argentinian is grateful for what set up a historic end to his tenure in Manhattan.

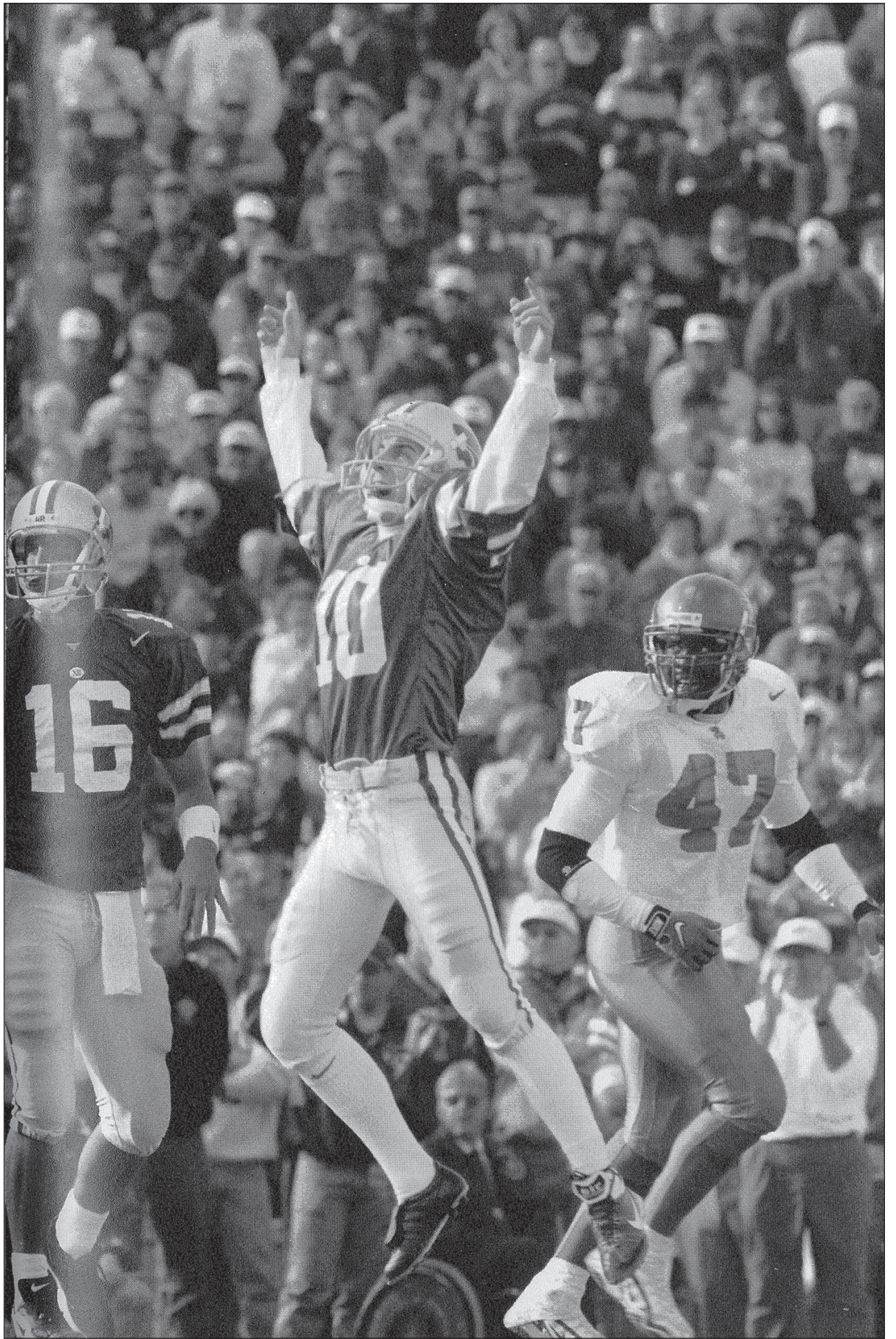
He won the Lou Groza Award for his 1997-98 junior campaign, which is given annually to the top kicker in college football. He also was named the runner-up before his final collegiate season.

"My leg came back stronger and better after the injury," Gramatica said. "I worked out before I trained, but you never train as hard as you do during your rehab. I focused a whole year in strengthening my leg and when I came back, I felt a lot stronger and better. You make a few kicks right away and you get your confidence back up."

Gramatica went on to spend 11 seasons in the NFL (1999-2008), including six seasons with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. That also came during Tampa Bay's victory in Super Bowl XXXVII in 2002. He also spent time in Indianapolis, Dallas and New Orleans before ending his career.

Where does Gramatica stand among the greats at the NCAA level? Janssen sees no reason why he can't be called one of the best to ever hold the position.

"There's not too many kickers that have those two things (a Lou Groza win and runner-up trophy) on their resume," Janssen said. "I don't think there's any question about it. He has the longest field goal without a tee, so you have to put him up there."



JEFF COOPER | THE COLLEGIAN

Place-kicker **Martin Gramatica** celebrates his history-making kick against Kansas on Nov. 8, 1998 at KSU Stadium as holder **James Garcia** looks on. Gramatica's 21-yard field goal with 45 seconds remaining in the second quarter increased K-State's lead to 21-9, and placed him as the all-time leading scorer in school history.

## K-State offensive line play trending upwards for Big 12 conference play

By TATE STEINLAGE  
THE COLLEGIAN

K-State senior quarterback Jake Waters believes his offensive line is starting to "come along."

In Saturday's 58-28 blow-out of UTEP, eleven offensive linemen featured for the Wildcats. Some are as experienced as center B.J. Finney, who has started over 40 games in his K-State career. Others, like redshirt freshman left tackle Ajahne Brager, are seeing real game action for the first time since high school.

For the most part, rotating so many players has been benefitted the Wildcats. K-State is 60th in country in both passing and rushing yards, averaging more than 420 yards of total offense per game. Players are staying fresh in the fourth quarter and producing in critical moments. And "youngsters," as head coach Bill Snyder likes to put it, are gaining experience and chemistry with their teammates — something this team isn't taking lightly.

"I think it is a big factor, just like me getting on the same page with receivers," Waters said Tuesday at K-State's weekly press conference. "They are getting better

and you can tell during every rep in practice and every play in the game that they are starting to come along better."

Up next for K-State is Texas Tech, which has struggled defensively, allowing 454 yards of total offense per game. With the early experience and success, K-State's offensive line hopes to improve as the conference season unfolds.

"I think we have been consistent the first four games in certain aspects of the game," junior left guard Boston Stiverson said. "I think we are doing a better job running the ball and passing the ball with balanced offense. We want to be the most successful team in the Big 12. We are going to keep focusing on that and move forward from there."

K-State is already 1-0 in the conference after beating Iowa State 32-28 on the road back on Sept. 6. K-State's offense racked up 471 yards of total offense, including 232 yards on the ground. However, it was a massive result for the offensive line for reasons other than the final score or yardage gained.

"The Iowa State game was a confidence booster to start the year out," Stiverson said. "It gave us a little momentum. We did some good

things on the ground against UTEP and that will give us some momentum going back into Big 12 play. We just need to keep running the ball efficiently and keep opening holes for our running backs and quarterback."

The main focus moving forward is consistency, especially in the running game. K-State moved the ball and scored on five-consecutive drives against UTEP, but only after struggling to gain yards on the ground at the start of the game. In the third quarter against Iowa State, the Wildcats rushed for just 44 yards, while versus Auburn K-State rushed for a season-low 40 yards.

"I think we still have a ways to go," Snyder said. "We've just been inconsistent. The offense is probably going to go the way the offensive line (goes), that's probably true of everybody. It's not just a five-man game, we all understand that. But if you don't have those five, you probably don't much in the way of a running game."

The offensive line has yet to peak, and that may very well be okay. After the Red Raiders visit on Saturday, K-State will begin preparations for a marquee road contest in Norman against Oklahoma before re-



EMILY DESHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

K-State running back **Charles Jones** avoids UTEP defenders as he rushes down field on Saturday, September 27, 2014 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

ally getting into the thick of things in Big 12 play against Texas and Oklahoma State.

For now, the offensive line is set on improving in all phases of offense, including chemistry and consistency.

If recent weeks are any indication, they'll do just that — and the payoff will be big for K-State on the field and on the scoreboard.

"I am just seeing their improvement, showing they

can be consistent," sophomore running back Charles Jones said. "They have been more consistent, and it has made our job a lot easier. Jake (Waters), (DeMarcus Robinson), and I really appreciate that."

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# No. 55 is all hard work, no-nonsense

By EMILIO RIVERA  
THE COLLEGIAN

The offensive line might not be in the same limelight as the people they block for, but their technical skills are what push any offense to success or failure.

For K-State, the offensive line relies on players to step up and fill the gaps that graduation brings on a yearly basis. This season, the Wildcats turned to second team All-Big 12 lineman Cody Whitehair. He had spent his first two years starting for the Wildcats at left guard, but this season the junior Outland Trophy candidate was asked to move to left tackle to block senior quarterback Jake Waters' blind side.

The move was almost second nature for Whitehair, who has succeeded in making a jump that usually creates issues. For some, this success didn't come as a surprise. Just ask Whitehair's former coach at Abilene High School where, under Jeff Geist's tutelage, Whitehair provided the Cowboys with another option on the line.

"We knew (when he walked in freshman year) that we had a pretty darn good player and we used him at the varsity level," Geist said. "We used him as a tight end in the 'super-sized' or 'jumbo package' and he actually caught a pass to win a game. He really has good hands. I knew that he came in at 275 pounds as a freshman and he wasn't done growing. What a diamond in the rough that K-State got ahold of."

The skills that Whitehair showed early on in his high school career began to show themselves for the Wildcats



RODNEY DIMICK | THE COLLEGIAN

**Cody Whitehair** (55) looks for a block against Stephen F. Austin on Aug. 30, 2014 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

lievable feet, great flexion in those hips," Geist said. "Yes the kid weighs 305 pounds, but you couldn't tell it. He just has a natural strength to him and is a great technician with his footwork."

Being switched to left tackle provides a new set of challenges in sealing off the outside edge, which means needing better footwork to be able to make it out to his blocks. Developing perfect footwork – a staple for any

"To have Cody out there makes you a lot more comfortable, because you have a great offensive lineman; a tackle, a guard, he's been all over the place," sophomore running back Charles Jones said. "He has been really consistent and a great offensive lineman and it make our job a lot easier and a lot more comfortable."

Coaches have raved throughout Whitehair's career that he has been the sort of no-nonsense guy that compliments senior center B.J. Finney perfectly. He is one of the vocal members on the line that sets the tone that the offensive line has asked for since he was a freshman.

"Cody is another one of those kids that knows how to work hard. He is very talented and he puts that talent with hard work and he has made himself into a very good offensive lineman," offensive line coach Charlie Dickey said at K-State's annual media day. "I think he is going to be one of the best linemen in the Big 12 if he continues to work on it and respect the process of what it takes to be great."

Whitehair has been hailed as a player that not only does the right things



MASON SWENSON | THE COLLEGIAN

**Cody Whitehair** evaluates the defense before the snap against Stephen F. Austin on Aug. 30, 2014 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

on the field, but also off the field.

"Cody is not a kid you're going to hear getting involved with negative things or things that could damage himself as an athlete or a person," Geist said. "He toed the lines and

he did the right things. We all knew he was a good kid on the field, but we all knew that he did good things off of the field, too."

The impact he has made for his team seems to rival that of any player. His sol-

id play plus his motivation to get better each and every time he's on a field – a trait that head coach Bill Snyder praises and preaches to his players – makes Whitehair truly a force to be reckoned with on the offensive line.

**"To have Cody out there makes you a lot more comfortable because you have a great offensive lineman; a tackle, a guard, he's been all over the place."**

CHARLES JONES

SOPHOMORE RUNNING BACK

during his first year on campus. After redshirting a year, he began to make his presence known on the Wildcats' offensive line. His athleticism has been pointed to as one of the biggest advantages he has over other offensive linemen.

"He is an athlete, obviously he is playing at the Division I level, he has unbe-

great lineman – started early on in his career, driving him to become an elite athlete.

The backfield, which has seen an increase of production this year, seems to have fit behind Whitehair well. His transition to one of the most important positions on the offensive line has put the backfield players' minds at ease.

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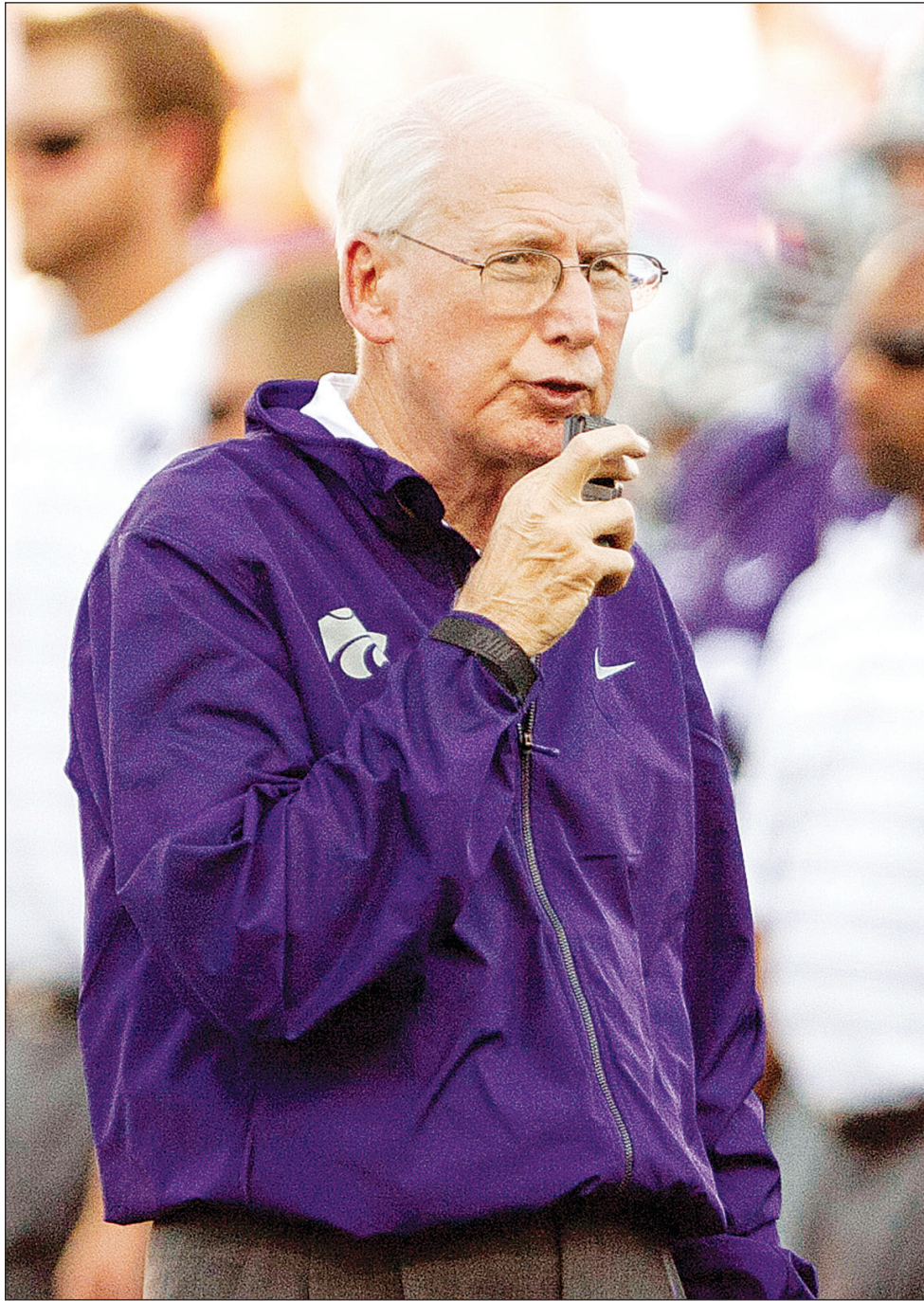
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# Old school meets new with Kingsbury's first visit to Manhattan as a head coach



EMILY DeSHAZER | THE COLLEGIAN

Bill Snyder records a thought on August 30, 2014 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.



TEXAS TECH ATHLETICS

By ADAM SUDERMAN  
THE COLLEGIAN

Not only are K-State head coach Bill Snyder and Texas Tech head coach Kliff Kingsbury separated by forty years in age, the longtime Wildcats head coach has leadership and competition traits to look back on from the 34-year-old's career as a Red Raider (1999-2002).

Kingsbury, the third-youngest head coach at the Division I level, holds the fourth best season-passing total with 5,017 yards. He also led the Big 12 in passing in his

junior (3,502) and senior (same as record above) seasons.

Saturday's game will be the second time that the two head coaches have met and Kingsbury will be looking to reverse the outcome of last season's 49-26 thrashing at the hands of the Wildcats in Lubbock.

"He's developed that confidence that their offense can move the ball, any time anywhere and against anyone," Snyder said of his Texas Tech counterpart's coaching in 2014-15. "For the most part they've been successful doing that. It doesn't take anything away from their defense. Trying to identify a trademark, that's probably the direction I'd go."

It's a different mentality for Kingsbury, who is in his third different Division I coaching job, but first as head coach. The former Red Raiders quarterback saw Snyder's ability to build a program both as a player and now as a coach and it has resonated.

"I obviously have a ton of respect for him and what he has done there," Kingsbury said. "One of the greatest (coaching) jobs in college football and twice he's come back and resurrected that place. I have a tremendous amount of respect for the kind of man he is and the way he runs his program."

Similar to his college head coach, Kingsbury has em-

braced the west-coast offense and implemented the schemes into his coaching. The Red Raiders are so heavily based in a pass-first offense that the four greatest single-season passing totals are by Texas Tech quarterbacks.

Kingsbury is joined by two records by Graham Harrell (5,705 in 2007 and 5,111 in 2008) and B.J. Symons (5,833 in 2003).

However, Snyder believes that Texas Tech isn't as one-sided as the past numbers indicate.

"Texas Tech runs the ball more than people tend to believe – 38 percent of their snaps have been run plays," Snyder said. "Some of those passes are

really run plays when they put a guy in motion and pitch the ball forward; that is a completed pass even though they run most of the play. You are looking at somewhere in the vicinity of 60-40 pass-to-run, and that is a pretty decent balance when you look at it that way."

Snyder, who holds the second-most career victories at their current school, hasn't deviated from his original offensive systems and carries a full-back in a bulk of the schemes given by offensive coordinators Del Miller and Dana Dimel.

K-State currently sits No. 5 in the Big 12 in total rushing offense with 175 yards per game, however, members of

the No. 23 Wildcat offense will be the first to say that the unit has plenty to improve on.

Time of possession will be important in keeping Kingsbury's up-tempo passing attack minimized, which is something junior offensive linemen Boston Stiverson said is a work in progress.

"I think we have been consistent the first four games in certain aspects of the game," Stiverson said. "I think we are doing a better job running the ball and passing the ball with balanced offense. We want to be the most successful team in the Big 12. We are going to keep focusing on that and move forward from there."

## Q-and-A with Everett Corder, beat writer of the Texas Tech student paper

By ADAM SUDERMAN  
THE COLLEGIAN

**Q: From the first game of the season, Texas Tech has struggled to find defensive consistency, especially against the run. Do you believe the change in the coaching staff will provide upside in production?**

Former defensive coordinator Matt Wallerstedt had a very solid grasp of the technical side of defense and was really good at drawing up different plays and schemes that should have worked. The problem with Wallerstedt's system is that it gave players too much to think about while they were on the field. Every player was trying to do too much and it resulted in a confused defense that couldn't make stops and especially couldn't force turnovers. Red Raider linebacker Sam Eguavoen said now that Mike Smith has taken over, playing defense is a lot less stressful. Smith himself said he's trying to focus on the fundamen-

tals or "bread and butter" of defense, including filling gaps, staying in coverage and most importantly, wrapping up and making tackles.

**Q: Saying Davis Webb is important to the Texas Tech offense might just be an understatement. How do you feel he has progressed in Kliff Kingsbury's offense?**

The 2013 season threw a wrench into Davis Webb's career. With the back and forth competition between him and Baker Mayfield and the question of Michael Brewer returning, Webb did not have the chance to develop in the back-up or starter role. We saw his best career performance so far after he was named the starter and had time to prepare for the Red Raiders' 37-23 upset of Arizona State. After that game both Webb and Kingsbury were praised, and the hype for the 2014 season began. It was probably too much hype. Through the first four games of the season, Webb has shown the calm confidence he had in the Holiday Bowl, but more



THE DAILY TOREADOR

often he has looked nervous and tried to force passes where there isn't space for them.

**Q: Bradley Marquez has been hauling in touchdown catches at a strong pace. How has he progressed through his career to put up these types of numbers?**

In Monday's press con-

ference, Marquez was asked about being a national leader in touchdown receptions and he responded by saying all he knows is that the team is 2-2 when it should be 4-0. The senior wide receiver has developed into a leader on the team for being that way and was even named a captain of this year's team

after staying for workouts during the summer instead of going to play baseball in the Mets minor-league system. He has done that for the past three seasons. His downfield blocking ability is one of the biggest areas of growth in both ability and leadership recently. Throughout the 2013 season and first four games of this season, Marquez has been involved in nearly all downfield receptions, either catching the ball or blocking to give his teammates room to run, and it's something he prides himself on.

**Q: Penalties have been a serious area of concern for Texas Tech. What will it take to reverse the trend?**

If you ask any members of the Tech coaching staff, they are doing everything they possibly can think of to cut down on penalties. There are referees in practice almost every day, and on Monday, Mike Smith listed off a whole slew of workouts the coaches have made the players do in practice for committing

penalties. Marquez even said the captains of the team have met with the whole team and called them to cut down the penalties. The main problem causing the penalties, especially on the defense, is the lack of experience that comes from playing freshman and junior college transfers. Now that these players have a few games under their belts, the amount of penalties will likely start to decrease. In order for a sharp decrease, however, each player is going to have to make a conscious decision and stick to it during the game.

**Q: Kansas State has beaten Texas Tech in the last three games played. However, the Red Raiders hold the edge in the overall series. Who do you give the edge to on Saturday?**

The Tech defense knows what's coming this weekend and although it will improve from the dismemberment it endured against Arkansas, Kansas State's offense will still be too much for the Red Raiders. The Wildcats will defeat the Red Raiders 45-35.

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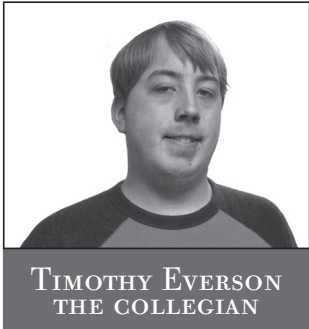


K-State’s defense showing glimpses of greatness from years’ past



HANNAH HUNSINGER | THE COLLEGIAN

A student throws up the “Lynch Mob” symbol during the Auburn game in Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Sept. 18.



TIMOTHY EVERSON  
THE COLLEGIAN

Flannel, VHS, Bill Clinton, Y2K and Napster. What do these things all have in common? They are all touchstones of ‘90s and early 2000s culture. The rise of K-State football in this era starts and ends with gritty tenacious defense that soon became the trademark of head coach Bill Snyder’s programs in

Manhattan. In 2014, a cast led by senior linebacker Jonathan Truman, senior defensive end Ryan Mueller and junior defensive back Danzel McDaniel, are embracing this mentality and providing K-State with the No. 13 rushing defense in the country. The numbers from 1997-2003 are nothing short of staggering. The K-State defense was ranked in the top six in the country and from 1998-2003, the Wildcats had one of the top 25 rush defenses in college football. This peaked in 2002 when it was the second best in the country. Six-straight years of dominating the line of scrimmage and ball-hawking defense like you wouldn’t believe. Oklahoma’s defense at the

time, pretty good. What about Texas? It wasn’t bad. Certainly the “Blackshirts” of Nebraska have to be up there, right? Very good, but the famously-tagged “Lynch Mob” of K-State was still better. Remnants of this linger in Manhattan, mostly through the hand sign: two finger guns, wrists crossed arms thrown overhead with unabashed hunger and power. Whether it be the student or alumni section, an extended generation has received a first-hand glimpse of this tight-knit defensive group. It’s been diluted and almost undermined when people throw it up on each three-and-out or every tackle. At one time, it was reserved for something truly

spectacular and worthy, but it slipped into something used to describe the mundane and occasional great play. However, this season on the sidelines at Bill Snyder Family Stadium, glimmers of those heralded days of powerhouse defense have started to show themselves. A less-than-stellar outing against Stephen F. Austin occurred when both Lumberjack quarterbacks showed an ability to run on the Wildcats defense. On Sept. 6 at Iowa State, that black eye became a little worse as K-State players and fans stared wide-eyed and mouth agape. Iowa State scored 28 straight points to carry what felt like an insurmountable lead. When they needed an answer,



Jake Waters was the answer. The senior signal-caller willed the Wildcats to a 32-28 victory at Jack Trice Stadium. A switch was flipped as K-State returned to Manhattan on Sept. 18 for its highly-anticipated matchup with No. 5 Auburn. The defense had found another gear. The Wildcats held the Auburn rushing offense to less than 200 yards rushing, which was a feat that hadn’t been accomplished since last season. What seemed to be an average defense quickly climbed the ladder as attention shifted toward what the K-State defense could become. Fueled with disappointment from the heartbreaking loss to the Tigers, the defense held one of the nation’s best rushers in UTEP’s Aaron Jones to just 47

yards. It was a decimation of a normally prolific rushing attack. Coming into this week against Texas Tech, they find themselves ranked 18th in overall defense and 13th in rushing. Not quite Clinton-era numbers, but nothing to shake a stick at either. Until then, break out your Nirvana albums and try to remember how to do the Bartman. What the rest of the season holds obviously remains to be seen, but we’ll learn quickly if K-State has a defense worthy of the title “Lynch Mob.” Timothy Everson is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com).

Big 12 games to watch: conference slate is in full swing



By TATE STEINLAGE  
THE COLLEGIAN

The Big 12 nonconference season officially concluded this past weekend, as all 10 teams prepare to formerly kickoff conference play Saturday with five exciting matchups. Four games will precede K-State and Texas Tech at Bill Snyder Family Stadium — 6 p.m., ESPNU — on Saturday. Let’s take a closer look them so you’ll be ready for all the weekend action.



**No. 4 Oklahoma at No. 25 TCU**  
**2:30 p.m., FOX (Line: Oklahoma -6)**

The Sooners’ early success comes as no surprise to those around the country, but some 185 miles south of Norman, success has raised some eyebrows. TCU has stormed out of the gates, moving to 3-0 Saturday with a 56-0 win over



**No. 7 Baylor at Texas**  
**2:30 p.m., ABC (Line: Baylor -17)**



A potent Bears offensive attack meets a stingy Longhorn defense Saturday in Austin, Texas for a battle of in-state rivals. Head coach Charlie Strong picked up his first Big 12 victory last weekend, blanking Kansas on its homecoming 23-0. The Texas defense has stepped up in three out its four games this



**Iowa State at No. 21 Oklahoma State**  
**11 a.m., FOX Sports 1 (Line: Oklahoma State -17)**

Iowa State has had a rough go at things four games into the 2014-15 campaign. A bitter season-opening loss against FCS powerhouse

North Dakota State was quickly washed off after an admirable performance against K-State in week two and a huge win against rival Iowa in week three. Last week, Baylor’s high-powered offense brought Cyclone fans back to reality. For the Cowboys, their season has yet to really take shape. What looked to be an unfortunate quarterback loss after junior J.W. Walsh went down with an injury has since been redeemed by the quarterback play of junior Daxx Garman, who’s thrown for 929 yards and eight touchdowns on 49 completions. Oklahoma State will look to secure its confidence in Garman in conference play, while the Cyclones hope to ride their ship back on course for a successful season.



**Kansas vs. West Virginia,**  
**3 p.m. (Line: West Virginia -27)**

As if things weren’t ugly

enough on the gridiron in Lawrence already, the Jayhawks fired Charlie Weis Sunday after two full seasons with the program. He was in his third year of a five-year deal at Kansas.

Kansas has won just one conference game in three years. Turning that statistic around will be no easy task for interim head coach Clint Bowen, especially with a road test against a very underrated West Virginia team. If anyone is going to do it, it will likely be the coach who was around when the Jayhawks captured the 2007 Orange Bowl. Dana Holgersen’s squad is 2-2 through four games, but

the quality of play has often been better than that of 3-1 or 4-0 teams. The Mountaineers’ two losses came at the hands of the No. 3 (Alabama) and No. 4 (Oklahoma) ranked teams in the nation, and even then West Virginia looked good enough to win those games.

Kansas’ defense, which has played well these past two weeks, must jump on senior West Virginia senior quarterback Clint Trickett early. Trickett has been the unsung MVP of the conference early, throwing for 1,600 yards and nine touchdowns with a 72 completion percentage.

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# K-State students stand strong, cheer loud for their Wildcats

By GRANT FLANDERS  
THE COLLEGIAN

There are high football hopes throughout Big 12 campuses, with the possible exception of Iowa State and Kansas. At No. 23 K-State, however, students are optimistic of what's ahead for the Wildcats.

"We have a really good chance of winning the Big 12," Emily Leonard, freshman in marriage and family therapy and athletic training, said. "Our defense has been really on point this year and as (Jake) Waters gets more comfortable with his team they will be tough to beat no matter the opponent."

Waters isn't the only experienced signal-caller in the conference, as Baylor's Bryce Petty has continued to develop his hold as the Big 12's best offensive player. The K-State senior quarterback hasn't put up flashy statistics and has contributed to some of the Wildcats' early-season mistakes.

"There has been simple things like interceptions, sacks and missed opportunities that are easy to fix, but big problems if they are not fixed," Leonard said. "Who better to help fix those problems than the legend himself, Bill Snyder?"

A balanced attack is the "Bill Snyder way," but he raised some eyebrows during the Auburn game after Waters attempted 40 passes.

"If Charles Jones can get more touches, we will be better off," Kris Messer, freshman in sociology, said about his desire to see K-State's run game develop.

It's hard to argue with Messer's perspective as the Wildcats haven't seen the run game that they're accustomed to. Jones has averaged



GEORGE WALKER | THE COLLEGIAN

**Cody Isern**, sophomore in education, cheers with other students during the UTEP game Saturday afternoon at Bill Snyder Family Stadium. The Wildcats defeated the Miners 58-28.

over five yards per carry and gathered eight touchdown runs, but Messer said it hasn't been enough as Jones has only carried the ball 11 times per game.

Messer also said he believes K-State lacks a deeper receiving corps to go along with All-American wide receiver Tyler Lockett and Curry Sexton. Over 60 percent of the receptions have gone to Lockett and Sexton along

with starting tight end Zach Trujillo.

A big factor that has students questioning whether K-State will be able to claim the Big 12 championship is an unpleasant schedule. The Wildcats will have to face the top two teams in the conference on the road in Oklahoma and Baylor. Those are the games students have had circled since the season began.

Kiara Hughes, sophomore

in business marketing management, said she thinks it'll come down to who wins in Waco, Texas on Dec. 6. That also comes with the assumption that the Wildcats will take care of the rest of the schedule leading up to the season finale.

"Our main competition is Baylor," Hughes said. "If we beat them, we will win the Big 12."

Dan Vanschoelandt, junior in wildlife and outdoor

enterprise management, is in the same thought process as Hughes, and said he thinks the program is going to have to side-step a few potential sleepers along the way.

No. 21 Oklahoma State, has done little to disappoint thus far, including a near upset of No. 1 Florida State to open the season. A Nov. 8 game in Fort Worth, Texas also awaits the Wildcats and head coach Gary Patterson's team is far

from a pushover.

However, many K-State students feel their program is among the top teams in the country. Passion isn't slipping for the near 8,500 students who fill Bill Snyder Family Stadium on Saturdays. As Snyder preaches on a regular basis, the family mentality exists in every corner of K-State's campus and throughout the city of Manhattan.



RODNEY DIMICK | THE COLLEGIAN

Students cheer on Sept. 18, 2014 at Bill Snyder Family Stadium.

## Big 12 sports editor picks

- No. 1  
**OKLAHOMA**
- No. 2  
**BAYLOR**
- No. 3  
**K-STATE**
- No. 4  
**OKLAHOMA STATE**
- No. 5  
**TCU**
- No. 6  
**WEST VIRGINIA**
- No. 7  
**TEXAS**
- No. 8  
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# Quarterbacks take over offensive rankings



EMILIO RIVERA  
THE COLLEGIAN

## No. 1: Baylor QB Bryce Petty (Last week: 1)

In three games, Petty has racked up 913 passing yards. Petty has picked these up in easy fashion, creating many opportunities for the Bears' stacked roster. The senior has the Bears' offense on his shoulders, but then again, any Baylor quarterback can succeed in Art Briles' system. If you don't believe it, look what sophomore Seth Russell did in Petty's place in spot duty earlier this season.

What Petty has going for him is toughness and grit, playing with an injured back and willing himself and his team through tough spots.

## No. 2: K-State QB Jake Waters (Last week: 2)

In the first four games of his senior season, Waters has already proven that he has improved and stands as one of the focal points of the Wildcat offense. Waters has thrown for 916 yards to start the season, while only throwing three interceptions.

Another strong assessment of his improvement is his ability to escape the pass rush. This season, he is second on the team in rushing yards with 215 yards. Last season, the senior signal caller rushed for a total of 312 yards.

## No. 3: Oklahoma QB Trevor Knight (Last week: 3)

Knight has proven that he can contribute in a loaded Sooners' backfield by

passing for 1,065 yards.

In his last game, Knight looked shellshocked against the Mountaineers, but still produced 205 yards in the air. Because of his persistence and poise in the throwing game, his team has been able to hammer the ball on the ground.

## No. 4: West Virginia QB Clint Trickett (Last week: 4)

Through four games, Trickett has passed for 1,600 yards and 400 yards per game, both which rank first in the Big 12. The senior is known to be able to pass the tightest of coverages and create massive amounts of production. Trickett is the bright spot for the Mountaineers this season and he'll have to continue to produce if the team wants to continue to

make a name for itself in the Big 12.

## No. 5: Oklahoma State QB Daxx Garman (Last week: unranked)

The starting quarterback for the No. 21 Cowboys earned his spot on the top five with a gutsy performance at home against an undisciplined Texas Tech team. Garman averaged 11.7 yards per completion on the night.

Against the Red Raiders, Garman propelled his team to a win with four touchdowns, going 17 for 31 while throwing for 370 yards.

Emilio Rivera is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com).



GEORGE WALKER | THE COLLEGIAN

**Jake Waters** scrambles outside the pocket against UTEP on Sept. 27, 2014.

# Baylor's Xavien Howard enters rankings



AUSTIN EARL  
THE COLLEGIAN

## No. 1: Texas DT Malcom Brown (Last week: 1)

Brown did not have his most productive day on Saturday, but still played well for his team. He accumulated six tackles and one quarterback hurry. He earned a half of a tackle for loss. The Longhorns shutout Kansas on the road. Brown played no small part in that performance.

Brown will have to turn in a trademark game on Saturday for his team to have success defensively. The Longhorns will host the Baylor Bears, who average 56.8 points per game. If Brown can provide pressure on senior quarterback Bryce Petty, his team could have a slim chance at limiting the Bears' offense.

## No. 2: TCU LB Paul Dawson (Last week: 2)

Dawson was not around the ball

much against SMU, but made a difference when he was. He had just two tackles, including a sack and a fumble recovery. His team pitched a shutout and allowed only 89 rushing yards on 45 carries.

The Horned Frogs will be tested when they host No. 4 Oklahoma on Saturday. The Sooners are ninth in the nation in points per game (44.8). Dawson's unit has to play at the top of their game if they want a shot at knocking off the Sooners.

## No. 3: Kansas LB Ben Heeney (Last week: 3)

Kansas may have lost by 23 to Texas, but blaming Heeney would be asinine. He racked up 10 tackles in the game. He also had 1.5 tackles for loss and a half of a sack. He recovered a fumble and had a quarterback hurry as well. Kansas' defense allowed 111 yards on the ground.

The Jayhawks face West Virginia next and the Mountaineers' offense is built on throwing the ball, so Heeney's impact on the game may be limited.

## No. 4: Baylor CB Xavien Howard (Last week: unranked)

Howard is new to the power rankings this week, but has been good in the secondary all season. He leads the Big 12 in passes defended this season with

six breakups and two interceptions. His two interceptions are tied for third most in the conference.

Howard had five tackles against Iowa State last Saturday and three pass breakups. Howard and his teammates will face an anemic Texas offense this week. The Longhorns average just 21.3 points and 195 passing yards per game, which both rank ninth in the conference.

## No. 5: Iowa State LB Cory Morrissey (Last week: 4)

Morrissey was not great against Baylor, but it's hard to blame him when he played against such an elite offense. He racked up five tackles, a half of a tackle for loss and a pass breakup. His team allowed 601 yards, so it was not a banner day by any stretch of the imagination.

The Cyclones and Morrissey get another challenge this week when they travel to Stillwater, Oklahoma to take on Oklahoma State. The Cowboys offense is dangerous, so Morrissey will need to look to his teammates in the secondary to join him in his efforts in order to knock off head coach Mike Gundy's squad.

Austin Earl is a sophomore in mass communications. Please send all comments to [sports@kstatecollegian.com](mailto:sports@kstatecollegian.com).

## By the Numbers

BY AUSTIN EARL  
THE COLLEGIAN

# 14

### Meetings between K-State and Texas Tech

The Wildcats have a losing record against the Red Raiders at 6-8. They have closed the gap in the past three years by winning each of the three contests. Last year, they had a 49-26 victory in Lubbock, Texas, while head coach Bill Snyder has not lost to Texas Tech since 2010.

# 41

### Percent of the game that Texas Tech controls the ball

These two teams are on the opposite ends of the spectrum when it comes to time of possession. The Red Raiders averages 24:39 with the ball, while K-State averages 31:20 each game. The Wildcats' time of possession average is the most in the Big 12 and Texas Tech's is the least.

# 46

### Penalties Texas Tech has committed this season

The Red Raiders are not a disciplined team. Their 11.5 penalties per game for 105.5 yards are both tied for most in the nation. K-State averages just 36.8 penalty yards per game, which is the fewest in the Big 12.

# 135

### All-purpose yards Tyler Lockett averages per game

Senior wide receiver Tyler Lockett is a versatile weapon for the Wildcats. He is second in the Big 12 in punt return yards, ninth in receiving yards per game and fourth in all-purpose yards. He provides K-State a threat through the air and in the return game.

# 308

### Yards per game for K-State's opponents

K-State's defense allows the third fewest yards per game in the Big 12. The Wildcats are second in the conference in rushing defense, but sixth in pass defense. They give up 23 points per game, while Texas Tech is scoring 33.8 points per game in 2014-15.

# 339

### Yards per game averaged by Texas Tech quarterback Davis Webb

The Red Raiders have a potent offensive attack. Webb's average is second most in the Big 12. He has thrown for 14 touchdowns through his first four games of the season, which is the most in the conference. K-State gives up 217.8 yards per game through the air.

# 1,042

### Rushing yards Texas Tech has given up this season

The 260.5 yard per game average is fifth most in the nation. Their game against Arkansas earlier in the season was the biggest showcase of the unit's struggle, as they gave up 438 rushing yards in that week alone. Last week, K-State ran for six touchdowns against UTEP.

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